

Meeting of MTF leaders and SCP experts in Helsinki 8 – 9 September 2009

COMMENTS TO THE 3RD PUBLIC DRAFT OF THE 10YFP BY THE MARRAKECH TASK FORCES

In their meeting 8 – 9 September 2009 in Helsinki, the Marrakech Task Force leaders discussed the latest version of the 10YFP and decided to give the secretariats of the Marrakech Process, UNDESA and UNEP, the following questions, comments and suggestions.

The present 3rd draft is an excellent background document in describing the process and giving elements to grasp the concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). What seem to be lacking at this point are two complementing aspects which will be elaborated in this paper: How will the 10YFP be implemented? How should SCP programs in the 10YFP look like?

Implementation of the 10YFP

Will implementation be supported and monitored, and if yes, by whom? How to exchange best practices?

Support structure

The scope of SCP and of the 10YFP is global, hence not only the substance but also the follow-up, support and monitoring of its implementation call for a global structure. The implementation structure needs a home and a steering body, where all actors are represented. One or several UN agencies should be mandated to coordinate SCP issues and carry on the Marrakech Process. This implies a host secretariat with both global and regional offices, preferably also national centres of expertise, such as the Cleaner Production Centres. We are not suggesting the establishment of new institutions, quite the contrary, use of existing UN organizations.

The implementation process needs a fixed timeline, e.g. 2017 - 2022. As part of the follow-up, in order to support exchange of experiences and learning from peers, a series of conferences would be useful. Next to these regular meetings also other information sharing platforms will be necessary, e.g. websites or newsletters.

Ownership of the 10YFP by different actors of the Marrakech Process

The effort and achievement of the Task Forces, with their different approaches and focuses, has been to transform the theoretical concept of SCP into concrete actions, criteria and tools. Through this exercise the Task Forces are in the position to give suggestions regarding the shape of the 10YFP. Even if most of the Task Forces will have changed their organizational form into different kinds of partnerships by 2011, their work must not be discontinued.

The Marrakech Process, including its different elements, has a value of its own and it should be continued. Until now, its role has been to gather input about challenges, priorities and possibilities in different regions, and to help formulate the shape and substance of the 10YFP. In the future it would support the implementation of SCP programmes, and it could also encourage the establishment of new Task Forces to enrich the implementation of the 10YFP.

From the Marrakech Process' point of view, the foremost role of CSD18 and 19 is to motivate governments to integrate SCP and the life cycle perspective into decision making at all levels. However, because SCP is cross-sectoral by nature, the implementation of the 10YFP will not be possible without the involvement of a great variety of non-governmental stakeholders. In the 3rd International Expert Meeting in 2006, the NGOs and Business had their own forums, but since Stockholm their contribution to the process has been weak. Preparing for CSD18 and 19, the input of all Major Groups will be vital and their continued participation has to be secured.

It is crucial that also different development agencies and international financing institutions (IFIs) mainstream SCP into their programs and financing criteria.

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Incentives to do more

A 10YFP and a follow-up structure alone will not secure the implementation of programs. Next to funding also other mechanisms are needed. Information sharing platforms have this role, as well. Maybe new ones could emerge, mimicking the experience of successful forums, such as “World SCP Forum” or “Global Compact on SCP”.

Because a massive global effort will be placed to secure funding to support climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, the obvious linkages to SCP should be highlighted. As an example, it should be possible to formulate National SCP Action Plans and other SCP programmes of the 10YFP so that they can be elements of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action plans (NAMAs) and capacity building programs. Innovative new sources for funding should also be researched, such as the so called Tobin tax, the suggested tax on all trade of currency across borders.

Substance, format and criteria of the programs

Which are the specific elements and criteria that will define a concrete SCP programme so that it fits into the 10YFP? How do the programmes express a global perspective? What are the goals of the programmes that could be reflected also in the declaration? What could be monitored?

Both a global and a citizen’s perspective

The goal is not only to change unsustainable patterns of production, but to support the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption patterns. In particular the aspect of consumption – the user and human centric perspective of a citizen – should be highlighted in the programs. The goal has to be *both* the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption *and* securing the provision of basic goods and services to all.

Program criteria

Because many of the possible incentives have to be linked with performance criteria, it is important to be able to quantify targets and deadlines so that they are in accordance with the criteria of potential funding sources, e.g. climate funds for capacity building and technology transfer, or other sources that support institutional strengthening and awareness raising. The criteria have to be such that they can be monitored, reported and verified (MRV). Because our aim is Sustainable Consumption and Production, the criteria have to include also aspects of global equity and social sustainability.

An SCP program in the 10YFP should be defined by, at least, the following information

- Goal and scope of the program
- A short description of how the program promotes SCP
- Elements and deliverables of the program (including measurable and verifiable targets as well as a timeline with interim deliverables, and deadline for the implementation)
- Linkages to other programs (e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, PRSPs, or NAMAs) or targets (such as MDGs, climate mitigation, employment creation or waste reduction)
- Actors who are committed to the implementation of the programme, and their roles, including a lead actor
- Committed resources (human, technical and financial)

Overarching goals and fresh ideas

The targets and criteria can differ according to regional priorities. However, also global targets should be formulated, such as “the integration of the life cycle perspective into public decision making”, “absolute decoupling of economic growth and depletion of natural resources”, “factor 4”, “decent work”, and the MDGs. A possible overarching goal for the 10YFP could be becoming a support mechanism of the implementation of a “Global Green New Deal”, or “Sustainable Economy”. These overarching goals should also appear as elements of the CSD19 declaration.

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Fresh ideas are needed in the formulation of programs, maybe also an “ambassador for SCP”. The Marrakech Task Forces have been able to come up with new tools like the “Green Passport” and an “African Eco-Label”. In order to make the concept of SCP more comprehensible and attractive, we need innovative tools like these.

ANNEX: Suggestions for possible programs – rough initial outlines that will be elaborated further

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION IN COUNTRY X

- Goal and scope of the program, e.g.
 - o To mainstream sustainable construction at the national and local level in country X, with a particular emphasis on energy efficiency and eradication of energy poverty.
- A short description of how the program promotes SCP, e.g.
 - o The implementation of the program will help decrease the number of people living in slums, without access to freshwater and sanitation as well as energy.
 - o New construction will fulfil basic sustainability criteria also in terms of resource use and decent work.
 - o Local employment possibilities will be increased because of use of local materials, energy sources and construction methods.
- Elements and deliverables of the program (including measurable and verifiable targets as well as a timeline with interim deliverables, and deadline of the implementation), e.g.
 - o Baseline analysis of the state of construction and policies and resources to guide it, using a UNEP SBCI assessment tool (6 months, starting ...).
 - o Stakeholder workshop to define criteria for sustainable buildings and construction in country X, based on a Marrakech Task Force guideline.
 - o Capacity building seminars for civil servants, relevant decision makers, professional associations, teachers in universities and vocational schools educating construction professionals, as well as construction industry associations. Coverage 50%.
 - o Review of the national land use and construction act as well as local building ordinances.
 - o Best policy and best practice publication with cases in country X.
- Linkages to other programs, e.g.
 - o The program will assist in implementing the PRS and NAMA.
- Actors who are committed to the implementation of the programme, and their roles, including a local lead actor, e.g.
 - o Decision by the Minister for Housing, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry as lead actor
 - o Mayors and Chairs of Building Commissions in five biggest cities of country X
 - o
- Committed resources (human, technical and financial), e.g.
 - o Person hours in the Ministry ... / 2 years
 - o Person hours in the Building and Planning Departments of the five cities ... / 2 years each
 - o Local in-kind contributions (e.g. space and accommodation for workshops and training sessions)
 - o External experts, ... days / 2 years
 - o

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

- Goal or Scope of the Programme
 - o to engage, exemplify, enable and encourage relevant stakeholders (business and citizens) to change behavior towards sustainable lifestyles
- A short description of how the program promotes SCP, e.g.
 - o The Program will identify the means and best practices, assemble results and good examples from ongoing work on sustainable consumption, provide tools and knowledge on what is needed to change unsustainable patterns including info on “how to do”, “what to think about”, in order to guide and enable wiser consumer choices and lifestyles.

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- It will provide means for how to rethink our lifestyles, the way we buy and use products and services, and the way we organize our everyday life.
- It will provide frameworks for an infrastructure to facilitate sustainable lifestyles/consumption.
- Elements and deliverables of the program (including measurable and verifiable targets as well as a timeline with interim deliverables, and deadline of the implementation)
 - Seminars on information tools (ecolabeling, fair trade etc) by ... date
 - CD roms, checklists on how to communicate
 - Guidelines on how to integrate sustainability into marketing/advertising
 - Training kits on sustainable consumption
 - Guidebooks for business on how to promote sustainable lifestyles, and training workshops by xx 2011
 - Replication of social innovation initiatives in country X and country V by ... date
 - Integrating issues of sustainable consumption in educational programmes/curricula – pilot projects in Costa Rica and in Italy and
 - Seminars and guidelines on Sustainable Cities/sustainable infrastructures
- Linkages to other programs, e.g.
 - Close links to programmes on buildings and energy use, sustainable tourism, climate change, resource efficiency (water, energy), food consumption, transports, chemicals and waste, sustainable cities etc.
- Actors who are committed to the implementation of the programme, and their roles, including a local lead actor, e.g.
 - Governments have a role in creating the appropriate framework (infrastructure, regulation, economic incentives, technical innovations etc.) to facilitate citizens and business to change.
 - Business has an important role in providing sustainable products and services on the market together with appropriate information to meet our needs, as well as to work with a lifecycle perspective and cooperate along the whole value chain with suppliers, national, regional and local agencies etc.
 - NGOs have an important role in disseminating information – making people aware etc.
 - Citizens/consumers have a responsibility to make informed choices
- Committed resources (human, technical and financial), e.g.
 - Person hours in the Ministry ... / 2 years
 - Person hours in the Building and Planning Departments of the five cities ... / 2 years each
 - Local in-kind contributions (e.g. space and accommodation for workshops and training sessions)
 - External experts, ... days / 2 years